Dear Saint Paul Merchants and Residents:

As consumers and taxpayers, we all pay higher prices due to losses associated with people issuing worthless checks. Law enforcement spends significant resources investigating and prosecuting people who issue worthless checks. The number of worthless check cases increases every year.

In response to concerns regarding worthless checks, The St. Paul Police Department and the Office of the St. Paul City Attorney, in conjunction with Financial Crimes Services (FCS), has implemented a worthless check diversion program.

The main goals of the program are:

- Restitution for victims
- Increase the accountability for people who issue worthless checks
- Educate and assist Saint Paul merchants and residents in reducing the number of worthless check cases
- Reduce the investigation and prosecution costs associated with worthless check cases

This program is at no cost to the taxpayer or merchants. It is funded solely by fees from the people who issue the worthless checks.

If you receive worthless checks and would like to take advantage of this program, or would like more information, please contact:

St. Paul Diversion Program Checks/Closed Accounts 1-800-880-5420

Email: <u>info@financialcrimes.net</u>
Website: www.financialcrimes.net

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The restitution program process is as follows:

- 1. Checks are entered into the FCS system.
- 2. Check writers are contacted by the FCS restitution program regarding the checks. Four scenarios are then possible:
 - A. Check writer pays the Check Diversion Program 100% of the face value of the check is returned to the merchant plus bank fees, if paid.
 - B. Offender completes a financial counseling program offered by the Check Diversion Program.
 - C. Check writer fails to pay the check is sent for prosecution review and proceedings.
 - D. If check is not at prosecutable limit, check writer is red flagged. The system will then notify if more checks are entered and prosecution review is done again.

CHECKS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM

- NSF, Account Closed, Refer to Maker, Stop Payment, and Electronic Checks received within city limits that do not exceed \$1500.00.
 If your check exceeds \$1500.00, please bring directly to your law enforcement center.
- Worthless checks submitted LESS THAN 120 DAYS from the date issued by the check writer.
 - (Exception: first time program users can send checks up to 2 years old)

CHECKS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM

- Promissory notes and/or arrangement to hold the check for deposit or credit extensions
- Second party checks
- Checks that are currently in collections by a collection agency or attorney/law firm (checks can be forwarded to check diversion program after agency has sent them back)